

**From:** Ted Rust  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/17/02 3:57pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to take a moment to let you know how strongly I feel about this case. I am appalled at the things Microsoft has done and the things that they always get away with. As a computer software professional, I think the detriment they have caused to our industry is immeasurable. They claim to innovate, but they simply squash whomever they can. They claim to leverage disparate technologies, but they simply buy out the competition and throw it away in preference of their own product.

I don't think that Netscape is the only company or group of people to have suffered at the hands of Microsoft. I think Apple may be one of the hardest hit, as a company. I really feel that the entire population has suffered, though. The lack of viable competition to this juggernaut of a company has slowed (and stopped, in many cases) the rate of innovation usually experienced in our industry.

I find it difficult to express my disappointment and anger at the outcome of every failed battle against Microsoft. Please, just take into account that I represent a large group of unsatisfied people in the public that wish something would be done to protect us from the iron-fisted rule of Microsoft. Just because they have a potentially limitless barrel of cash, does not mean that they should be able to do whatever they want.

Microsoft deserves to be punished. I think they should have to pay the billion dollars they offered, but 100% of it should go towards competitive software and hardware. Buy Apple Macintosh computers and software from Corel and smaller independent software vendors. Let Microsoft feel the cutting edge of their own money.

Thank you for your time and I respect the difficulty of your decision. Please take your time and consider the ethics lesson our future leaders will receive from the outcome of this case.

Sincerely,

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